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FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SHIHABI
(President of the General Assembly)

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ORGANIZATION OF THE FORTY-SIXTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS: MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

ORGANIZATION OF THE FORTY-SIXTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS: MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/BUR/46/1 and Add.1)

Section I. Introduction

1. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions reproduced in annexes V, VI, VII and VIII to its rules of procedure.

Section II. Organization of the session

Paragraph 4 (General Committee)

2. The Committee took note of paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 5 to 8 (Rationalization of work)

3. The Committee took note of paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Secretary-General's memorandum and decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to recommendations 2, 3 and 7 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations and to paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's memorandum; it also decided to recommend that the holding of concurrent meetings of the Special Political Committee and the Fourth Committee should be avoided.

Paragraph 9 (Closing date of the session)

4. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Assembly should recess on 17 December 1991 and close on 14 September 1992.

Paragraphs 10 to 12 (Schedule of meetings)

5. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that morning meetings should start at 10 a.m. for all plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees. The Committee also decided to recommend that, in order to avoid the late start of meetings, the General Assembly should waive the quorum requirements for plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees, on the understanding that such a waiver would not imply any permanent change in the provisions of rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure pertaining to the opening of meetings.

6. The Committee further decided to recommend that delegations should be reminded of the utmost importance of punctuality in the interest of ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations.

Paragraphs 13 to 15 (General debate)

7. The Committee endorsed the suggestions in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

8. The CHAIRMAN urged representatives, in view of the large number of delegations already inscribed on the list of speakers for the general debate in the General Assembly, to speak in the order in which they were listed. Those unable to speak at the scheduled time would be put at the end of the list for the same day.

9. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 15 and to recommend that the provision prohibiting the practice of expressing congratulations inside the Assembly Hall itself should apply during the forty-sixth session. In that connection, it also decided to recommend to the General Assembly that speakers in the general debate should be asked to exit the Assembly Hall through room GA-200, located behind the podium, before returning to their seats.

Paragraphs 16 and 17 (Explanations of vote, right of reply and length of statements)

10. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of its decision 34/401 and to rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure and paragraph 22 of annex VI thereto, for appropriate action to be taken by the Assembly in plenary meeting and by the Main Committees.

Paragraph 18 (Records of meetings)

11. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should adopt the suggestions in paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraph 20 (Concluding statements)

12. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the need for full implementation of paragraph 17 of decision 34/401.

Paragraphs 21 and 22 (Questions related to the programme budget)

13. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions reproduced in paragraphs 21 and 22 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 23 and 24 (Documentation)

14. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 28 of decision 34/401; it also took note of the recommendation in paragraph 24 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 25 to 27 (Resolutions)

15. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of its decision 34/401, to recommendation 3 (f) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts, and to paragraphs 1 and 10 of the annex to its resolution 45/45.

Paragraphs 28 and 29 (Special conferences)

16. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the recommendations referred to in paragraphs 28 and 29 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraph 30 (Meetings of subsidiary organs)

17. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the General Assembly had already taken action on the request by the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and its Standing Committee for Programme Matters be authorized to meet during the forty-sixth session.

18. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should authorize the remaining seven subsidiary organs of the Assembly referred to in paragraph 30 of the Secretary-General's memorandum to meet during the forty-sixth session.

Section III. Adoption of the agenda

19. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with rule 40 of the rules of procedure, the Committee would not consider the substance of any item except in so far as it bore on the question of whether or not to recommend the inclusion of that item in the agenda.

20. He also drew the Committee's attention to the suggestions in paragraph 32 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

21. The Committee took note of the suggestions contained in paragraph 32 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Inclusion of items

Items 1 to 6

22. The CHAIRMAN said that items 1 to 6 had already been dealt with; he would therefore take it that there were no comments on their inclusion in the agenda.

Items 7 to 27

23. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 7 to 27 in the agenda.

Item 28

24. Mr. MERIMEE (France) said that discussion by the Assembly of the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte would constitute a violation of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations. The French and Comorian authorities regularly reviewed the question together within the framework of the close relations between those two countries. Their most recent consultations had taken place in May 1991, when the President of the Comoros had visited France.

25. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 28 in the agenda.

Items 29 to 45

26. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 29 to 45 in the agenda.

Item 46

27. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Kuwait had asked to participate in the discussion of item 46, in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

28. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Abulhasan (Kuwait) took a place at the Committee table.

29. Mr. ABULHASAN (Kuwait) said that, after careful study of the matter in all its aspects, his delegation wished to propose that the wording of the item be amended to read "Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait". His delegation also reserved the right to request that the item be discussed in the Assembly at an appropriate time.

30. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 46, as amended, in the agenda.

31. Mr. Abulhasan (Kuwait) withdrew.

Items 47 to 75

32. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 47 to 75 in the agenda.

Item 76

33. Mr. PENNANEACH (Togo) said that the authorities of France and Madagascar had continued their talks during the past year on the matter that was the subject of item 76 of the provisional agenda. A committee of experts from the two countries had met in Paris on 25 September 1990 to discuss the historical and juridical aspects of the matter as well as the possibilities of cooperation. Contact had since been maintained between the two delegations. In view of those developments and after consulting with the delegations of France and Madagascar, he wished to propose that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly defer consideration of item 76 to its forty-seventh session and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session, without prejudice to the positions of the two countries on the matter.

34. Mr. TRAXLER (Italy) supported the proposal.

35. The Committee decided to recommend that consideration of item 76 should be deferred to the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.

Items 77 to 104

36. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 77 to 104 in the agenda.

Item 105

37. Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand) said that the Secretary-General had indicated in his progress report on the question of East Timor (A/46/456), that, following substantive talks between Indonesia and Portugal, agreement had been reached on the terms of reference for the visit by a group of Portuguese parliamentarians to East Timor and that the logistic and technical aspects of the visit were currently being arranged. In view of the delicate nature of the situation, he proposed that the Committee should recommend that consideration of the item should be deferred to the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

38. Mr. TRAXLER (Italy) supported the proposal.

39. The Committee decided to recommend that consideration of item 105 should be deferred to the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.

Items 106 to 141

40. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 106 to 141 in the agenda.

Item 142

41. The CHAIRMAN said that the inclusion of item 142 had been requested by Jordan in document A/46/141.

42. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 142 in the agenda.

Item 143

43. The CHAIRMAN said that the inclusion of item 143 had been requested by a number of countries (A/46/191). The representative of Barbados had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

44. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Maycock (Barbados) took a place at the Committee table.

45. Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados) said that, since the break-up of the West Indies Federation in 1962, the regional organization representing the nations in the West Indies, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), had developed into a valuable coordinating and consultative body working in the context of a wider Caribbean. It was, therefore, appropriate that CARICOM should be granted observer status in the United Nations, to facilitate the work of the Organization's agencies in the region and to benefit all the States and agencies concerned.

46. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 143 in the agenda.

47. Mr. Maycock (Barbados) withdrew.

Item 144

48. The CHAIRMAN said that the inclusion of item 144 had been requested by Cuba (A/46/193 and addenda 1 to 7). The representative of Cuba had asked to participate in the discussion of the item under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

49. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Alarcón de Quesada (Cuba) took a place at the Committee table.

50. Mr. ALARCON de QUESADA (Cuba) said that the United States was attempting to avoid public discussion of its criminal blockade against Cuba. The declaration made by the United States Department of State on 21 August 1991 termed consideration of the item by the United Nations inappropriate and went on to say that inclusion of the item would not be justified since the policy which the United States was pursuing against Cuba was not a blockade, but merely an embargo, and that the United States did not prevent other States

(Mr. Alarcón de Quesada, Cuba)

from having relations with Cuba. That was a gross misrepresentation of the facts. There was an obvious need for the General Assembly to consider the issue and to demand that the United States put an immediate, complete and unconditional stop to its policy, which violated the basic provisions of the Charter.

51. The prohibition of all economic, commercial and financial relations with Cuba, imposed by the Government of the United States on all enterprises, institutions or individuals falling within its jurisdiction, was in direct violation of existing bilateral agreements and contravened the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and various General Assembly resolutions. In addition, the blockade not only prevented Cuba from obtaining medicine on the United States markets and caused its popoulation cruel suffering but also violated the human rights of citizens of the United States.

52. The systematic persecution of Cuba by the United States Government represented the most flagrant example in history of political arrogance. The United States Government had arrogated to itself the position of a world Government and examples of the aggressive measures it had implemented against Cuba into areas outside the territorial jurisdiction of the United States were listed in document A/46/193/Add.7.

53. The restrictions imposed by the United States in its obsessive campaign against Cuba were impeding his country's economic growth and the development of its economic and commercial ties with third countries, to the detriment of the legitimate interests of the companies, institutions and individuals of those countries as well. The United States Senate had recently adopted further amendments designed to tighten the blockade still further, grossly violating the sovereignty of other countries and placing conditions on its aid to States having economic ties with Cuba.

54. The economic war waged by the United States over the past 30 years against the people of Cuba was designed to destroy that country's economy, retard its development, return its people to servitude and exploitation and deny them the right to self-determination. Encouraged by the bankruptcy of the socialist systems in Europe, the United States Government had stepped up its economic blockade and had increased its pressure and threats against Cuba.

55. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to rule 40 of the rules of procedure, which stated that the General Committee should not discuss the substance of any item except in so far as it related to its inclusion in the agenda. He therefore recommended that discussion of the item should be deferred to the General Assembly if the item were included in the agenda.

56. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America) said that his country took pride in being one of the earliest advocates of a liberal policy with regard to the inclusion of items in the agenda. The values of that policy did not diminish with the passage of time but he regretted that other countries no longer adhered to those values and were unable to resist name-calling. The United States had no objection to the inclusion of the item on the agenda and would express its views at the appropriate time.

57. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 144 in the agenda.

58. Mr. Alarcón de Quesada (Cuba) withdrew.

Item 145

59. The CHAIRMAN said that the inclusion of item 145 had been requested by the Netherlands (A/46/194). The representative of the Netherlands had asked to participate in the discussion of the item under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

60. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Van Schaik (Netherlands) took a palce at the Committee table.

61. Mr. VAN SCHAIK (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the member States of the European Community, referred to the annex to document A/46/194, setting forth the cogent reasons for the request by the member States of the European Community that the item should be included in the agenda.

62. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 145 in the agenda.

63. Mr. Van Schaik (Netherlands) withdrew.

Item 146

64. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 146 in the agenda.

Section IV. Allocation of items

Paragraph 34

65. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's atttention to paragraph 4 of its decision 34/401.

Paragraph 35

66. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to four items of the draft agenda which had not been considered previously by the General Assembly. He

(The Chairman)

invited the Committee to consider the recommendations it should make regarding the allocation of those items.

67. He said that the sponsor of item 142 had proposed that the item should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.

68. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 142 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.

69. The CHAIRMAN said that the sponsors of items 143, 144 and 145 had proposed that those items should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

70. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 143, 144 and 145 should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

Paragraph 36

71. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should adopt the proposals in paragraph 36 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, relating to item 12.

Paragraph 37

72. The Committee decided, with regard to item 19, to recommend to the General Assembly that all the chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to specific Territories should be referred to the Fourth Committee, thus enabling the Assembly to deal in plenary meeting with the question of the implementation of the Declaration as a whole.

Paragraph 38

73. The Committee decided to recommend that, in accordance with the procedure followed at previous sessions, item 37 should be considered directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that the representatives of the Organization of African Unity and national liberation movements recognized by that organization would be permitted to participate in the discussion in plenary meeting, and that organizations and individuals having a special interest in the question would be permitted to be heard by the Special Political Committee.

Paragraph 39

74. The Committee decided to recommend that, as at previous sessions, the General Assembly should consider item 39 directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest on the question would be heard in the Fourth Committee in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting.

Paragraph 40

75. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 45 should be allocated at an appropriate time during the session.

Paragraph 41

76. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that paragraphs of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency dealing with the subject-matter of item 60 should be brought to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of that item.

Paragraph 42

77. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that in accordance with paragraph 16 of the annex to its resolution 39/125, the annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operations, management and budget of the United Nations Development Fund for Women should be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under item 83.

Paragraph 43

78. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the meeting to be held on 16 December 1991 to observe the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights should be held in plenary.

Paragraph 44

79. The Committee decided to recommend that item 114 should be allocated to the Fifth Committee on the understanding that the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit dealing with subject-matters assigned to other Main Committees would be referred also to those Committees.

80. The CHAIRMAN said that the Chairmen of the Special Committee against Apartheid and of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa had proposed that item 103 should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

81. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should consider item 103 directly in plenary meeting.

Paragraph 45

Items proposed for consideration in plenary meeting

82. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration in plenary meeting in the Secretary-General's memorandum, including the observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the international covenants on human rights under sub-item (a) of item 99, and including also items 103, 143, 144, 145 and 146, and excluding item 45, should be allocated to the plenary Assembly.

Items proposed for consideration by the First Committee

83. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the First Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.

Items proposed for consideration by the Special Political Committee

84. Taking into account its decision on the item entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India", the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Special Political Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.

Items proposed for consideration by the Second Committee

85. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Second Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.

Items proposed for consideration by the Third Committee

86. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Third Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.

Items proposed for consideration by the Fourth Committee

87. Excluding item 103, and taking into account its decision on the item entitled "Question of East Timor", the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Fourth Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.

Items proposed for consideration by the Fifth Committee

88. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Fifth Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.

Items proposed for consideration by the Sixth Committee

89. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Sixth Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum, including item 142, should be allocated to that Committee.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.